

Interview of Dr. Robert Rowland by Marks and Miazga on 4/15/74 at 9:00 am

Dr. Robert E. Rowland is Director of the Radiological and Environmental Research Division of Argonne National Laboratory. The Center for Human Radiobiology (CHR) is the largest component of the Division.

Dr. Rowland reported that he had nothing to provide us in the way of additional information about the early period. He knew of no informed consent from that time and guessed that Dr. Waterhouse would also have no knowledge of early informed consent among the Rochester patients. He did say that Dr. Brues suggested the name of Dr. S. Schwartz as an additional physician who was involved in the work of the health group of the Metallurgical Laboratory during that period.

Relative to his own recent studies he stated that he became acquainted with the problem early in 1972 and visited Dr. Pat Durbin in May 1972 about obtaining Dr. Durbin's files after attending a meeting in Portland. However, in May 1972, Pat did not make the files available to him because they had not been xeroxed yet. She did turn them over to him in December 1972.

Dr. Rowland thought that Dr. Waterhouse had not informed the patients of their plutonium injections in connection with their recent studies. He believed that her attitude was that the patients are frail now and might be harmed by such disclosure at the present time. He said that she had not brought the patients into Strong Memorial Hospital for the metabolism studies but had hospitalized them for other reasons. In one case, he believed that the patient had had an intestinal obstruction and was admitted first to another hospital but then transferred to Strong Memorial. While in Strong Memorial Hospital, excretion samples were obtained and shipped to Argonne.

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In the other case, the patient was hospitalized for a workup and treatment of his Addison's Disease. While in the hospital, the excretion samples were obtained for Dr. Rowland.

With regard to the patient in Texas, (CAL-3), Dr. Rowland said that the CHR had contacted the local doctor who in turn contacted the patient. The patient then corresponded with the CHR before coming in for the studies. The contact to the patient was made by letter. As far as Dr. Rowland knew, there had been no direct conversation. His knowledge of the matter was that the patient's physician was informed that the patient was to be studied because of interest in the treatment of the patient's osteogenic sarcoma.

Relative to the exhumations, Dr. Rowland said that they were handled by two groups of people, Dr. Jan Lieben on the one hand, and Mrs. Mary Margaret Shanahan and Dr. Robley Evans together on the other. The family in a typical case was told that the deceased patient had had an unknown mixture of radioactive isotopes at some time. Then, that the purpose of the current studies was to follow that up and to study the composition of the radioactive material that was given by means of analysis of the body and to study the effects of the radioactive materials. Instructions were passed from Dr. A. F. Stehney to Mrs. Shanahan to arrange for the exhumations. This was done relative to 10 bodies. Dr. Rowland thought it would be well to question Mrs. Shanahan and Dr. Lieben for more details about the information that they provided to the estates of the deceased.

Relative to a question raised by Mr. Miazga about justification for the studies, Dr. Rowland offered the following: (a) the additional study of excretion patterns beyond the early period, (b) the late follow-up of effects

which would be valuable in view of the relatively high deposition in these patients, and (c) the study of late plutonium patterns in the bone. He felt it would be desirable to be able to observe the deposition patterns in bone at a time much later than the early autopsied cases. In the exhumed case, the death occurred about 18 months after the injection. Although that case was of some interest, it would be less so than exhumed or autopsied bodies 20 or 30 years later. Mr. Miazga also inquired about contacts that were made with DBER. Dr. Rowland said that the Medical Branch was reluctant to fund studies for Dr. Durbin herself but that Dr. Joseph D. Goldstein had suggested that the work be done at Argonne. It was also suggested that ANL pay part of Dr. Durbin's expenses in connection with the last trip that she took East in the follow-up of a few of the patients, which ANL did. They also funded hospital costs for patients admitted into Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester. When queried about further contacts with AEC, he said that the additional contact was with Dr. Sidney Marks, in 1973, which Dr. Marks corroborated during the interview as occurring in June of 1973.

In response to an inquiry about the Human Use Committee, Dr. Rowland felt that the interviewers had best talk to Dr. Stehney to obtain more reliable information about the Human Use Committee because Dr. Stehney had been the principal contact between CHR and the Human Use Committee.

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